



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Joseph Horwedel

SUBJECT: COYOTE VALLEY
SPECIFIC PLAN TASK FORCE

DATE: April 7, 2006

Approved

Date 4/10/06

COUNCIL DISTRICTS: 2
SNI AREAS: None

REASON FOR ADDENDUM

One of the original Council-appointed Task Force members for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan (representing an environmental perspective) resigned early this calendar year. Staff has identified a potential replacement. The next Task Force meeting is April 24, 2006, and staff recommends that this vacancy be filled prior that meeting.

As a Council-appointed Task Force, the Council needs to make any changes to the Task Force membership. Planning staff administers this Task Force, and therefore, is bringing this item forward for the Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends the appointment of Melissa Hippard, Director of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, to fill a vacancy on the Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force.

OUTCOME

The appointment to the Task Force would restore representation of a variety of viewpoints for this important planning effort.

BACKGROUND

In August 2002, the City Council appointed a 20-member Task Force for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan (CVSP). The Task Force is co-chaired by Councilmembers Williams and Pyle, and consists of elected officials, property owners, City Commissioners, environmentalists, labor,

and other representatives. In January 2006, Terry Watt, representing the Silicon Valley Conservation Council, resigned from the Task Force. At its January Study Session on Coyote Valley, the Council indicated an interest in filling this vacancy. Any changes to this Council-appointed Task Force need to be considered by the City Council.

ANALYSIS

Since Ms. Watt's resignation, many individuals have volunteered to be considered for the Task Force. Staff appreciates the interest of these individuals.

Given that the Task Force has been working hard on complex issues for many years, staff identified three key criteria for consideration:

- ✓ The individual must be affiliated with an established environmental organization or have other substantive environmental qualifications.
- ✓ The individual must have attended and participated actively in a significant number of task force, community, or other outreach meetings associated with the Coyote planning effort.
- ✓ The individual must have a demonstrated understanding of the Council's Key Vision and Expected Outcome statements.

Melissa Hippard, Director of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, meets all of these criteria. She has been an active member of the CVSP Technical Advisory Committee. She has also attended and spoke at many meetings of the Task Force, community, and environmental focus group, as well as City Council Study Sessions. Her comments typically advocate for additional environmental protections in the Plan to reinforce a "smart growth" vision as articulated by the Council in its sixteen outcome statements.

ALTERNATIVES

Other qualified individuals were seriously considered but those individuals declined to serve on the Task Force. In addition, several residents within the County volunteered to serve but they did not meet the criteria listed above. If the Council does not appoint Melissa Hippard, staff would appreciate any input regarding additional selection criteria in order to fill the vacancy in a timely fashion.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Coyote Valley Specific Plan is a community-based process. All Task Force meetings are public and community involvement is encouraged through a variety of means (such as, but not limited to, community meetings).

COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no cost implications with the proposed Task Force member replacement.

COORDINATION

The preparation of this memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office. Additional coordination occurred with the Council Offices of Districts 2 and 10.

CEQA

Exempt, PP03-06-211.


JOSEPH HORWEDEL, ACTING DIRECTOR
Planning, Building and Code Enforcement